

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sub-caliber projectile comprising:
a sub-caliber penetrator dimensioned to have a caliber less than the caliber of a gun barrel for firing the penetrator, said penetrator having a lengthwise central axis;
a sabot dimensioned to have a caliber substantially equal to said gun barrel caliber and comprising at least two segments and surrounding said sub-caliber penetrator, wherein:
said sabot comprises at least three support seats having said gun barrel caliber and supporting said sub-caliber penetrator adjacent the internal surface of said gun barrel, said support seats including a forward support seat, a median support seat and a rear support seat spaced from one another along said lengthwise axis, and
said support seat comprises a profile for causing separation of said at least two segments from the sabot upon exiting a barrel.
2. (Currently Amended) The projectile according to Claim 1, wherein the axial distance between said two supports being the furthest apart is 3 calibers not less than three times the gun barrel caliber.
3. (Previously Amended) The projectile according to Claim 1, further comprising a band, wherein a median of said at least one support seat comprises a push plate having at least one groove to receive said band, and said median support seat is located axially between said two other support seats.
4. (Currently Amended) The projectile according to Claim 3, wherein said push plate is positioned at an axial distance from a median transverse plane (PM), said plane being orthogonal to said penetrator and passing through the center of gravity of said projectile, said distance being between 0.5 and 1.5 times the gun barrel caliber.
5. (Previously Amended) The projectile according to Claim 4, wherein said forward support seat comprises radial arms angularly spaced around the axis of said sabot.

6. (Currently Amended) The projectile according to Claim 5, wherein each said arm comprises a foot comprising a plastic material for ensuring guidance of said sabot in a gun barrel.

7. (Previously Amended) The projectile according to Claim 1, wherein said rear support seat comprises radial studs, evenly angularly spaced around said sabot.

8. (Previously Amended) The projectile according to Claim 7, wherein each said radial stud is integral with a segment of said sabot.

9. (Withdrawn) A projectile according to Claim 7, characterized in that each said radial stud formed by the juxtaposition of two parts, each integral with a separate segment of said sabot.

10. (Withdrawn) A projectile according to Claim 9, characterized in that each said radial stud carries a foot of a friction resistant material, for example steel, ensuring the guidance of said sabot in said barrel.